

INTELLIGENCE

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 20 Mar 51

SUBJECT Military Parade on the Occasion of National Liberation Day (29 November 1950)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Among the manifestations organized in honor of 29 November 1950, the sixth anniversary of the liberation of Albania, a military parade took place at Tirana. The garrison of the capital, consisting of 7 to 8 thousand men commanded by Major General Spiro Moislu, took part in the parade. Source presumes that for the occasion several of Albania's better equipped units were brought into the capital, since a large part of the war materiel, both heavy and light, appeared to be very new. Source states that, according to information received from a number of informants, similar arms were only occasionally seen in the possession of units stationed outside the capital and along the frontier itself.

2. Infantry:

- a. One hundred senior officers marched at the head of the infantry, followed by 400 junior officers and 600 non-commissioned ratings. According to source, these were individuals attached to the headquarters, to offices and to other services (in Tirana?).
- b. Following them were four regiments, each one of which was preceded by a flag and a small group of senior officers. Two of these regiments were composed of about a thousand men, of whom about 800 were armed with rifles, very similar to the Italian model .91, 100 men armed with sub-machine guns, similar to the Beretta type, and the other 100 men armed with machine rifles. This arm, which was carried on the shoulder, has a very long cartridge clip which is inserted at right angles into the weapon. Informant estimated the calibre of the gun to be about 10 mm. The other two regiments were composed of from 800 to 900 riflemen and a small unit armed with Soviet-made pistols. The latter were wearing police uniforms.
- c. There followed various pack units, some armed with machine guns (about 20 weapons carried by the same number of mules) and others with medium calibre mortars (about 40 pieces similar to the Italian Mod. 81) and a few other mountain pieces of small calibre.

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3. Artillery:

- a. Horsedrawn Artillery: About ten pieces of small calibre passed, followed by a dozen pieces of higher calibre (from 60 to 75 mm), all believed by informant to be anti-tank weapons.
- b. Motorized Artillery: About 80 pieces, drawn by truck and tractor, passed by, including cannons (several of 75 mm), howitzers, and mortars.
- c. Self-propelled Artillery: Artillery of this type passed by in two groups. In the first group there were about ten pieces of approximately 100 mm. calibre. The second group contained eight pieces of a calibre higher than 100 mm.
- d. Anti-Aircraft Artillery: A total of 24 trucks carried 43 anti-aircraft machine guns (two guns on each truck, each weapon manned by three men). There followed approximately 30 pieces drawn by tractors. These were pieces of small calibre, mounted on two-wheel carriages, with a seat for the driver. Another 20 pieces of medium calibre were also drawn by mechanical means, but were mounted on 4-wheel carriages with two seats for drivers. Ten pieces of self-propelled artillery of medium calibre completed the anti-aircraft part of the parade.

4. Armored Units:

- a. Ten light Soviet-type tanks, armed with a machine gun on a turret which could only turn partially, were in the parade. These were followed by a dozen medium tanks, also of Soviet manufacture, armed with what appeared to be 47 mm. cannon and possibly a machine gun in addition. The turret of the latter tanks was of a convex form with two openings on top, and the turret could rotate completely.
- b. A total of six armored cars went by; the machines were light, of small dimensions and mounted on rubber tires; according to source, these seem to have been primarily designed for speed and maneuverability.

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